DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 265 465 CG 018 789

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TITLE	Child Abuse and Neglect: Reporting in Colorado Fiscal Years 1977 to 1984.
INSTITUTION	Colorado State Dept. of Social Services, Denver. Div. of Family and Children's Services.
SPONS AGENCY	National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (DHHS/OHDS), Washington, D.C.
PUB DATE	[Sep 85]
NOTE	37p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Colorado Dept. of Social Services, Division of Family and Children's Services, 717 Seventeenth St., P.O. Box 18100, Denver, CO 80218-0899 ($4.25, discount on larger quantities).
PUB TYPE	Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Statistical Data (110)
EDRS PRICE	MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Child Abuse; *Child Neglect; Parent Child Relationship; Parent Counseling; Social Services; State Agencies; *State Programs; Statistical Analysis; Statistical Surveys; Trend Analysis
IDENTIFIERS	*Colorado

ABSTRACT

This report represents the first comprehensive summary of child abuse and neglect reporting in Colorado. Section I of this report presents an initial summary listing the number of confirmed and unconfirmed reports of abuse over a 14-year period and a look at key findings based on analysis of confirmed reports. Data and analyses are presented in the next four sections. Section II, Overview of the Central Registry, gives background information on the Colorado Central Registry for Child Protection and details how reports enter and exit the registry. Section III, Overview of Reporting Trends and Patterns, shows trends across time and Colorado reporting rates. Section IV, Detailed Analysis of Reporting Patterns, analyzes reporting patterns in relation to age and sex characteristics, characteristics of perpetrators, ethnicity and reporting, source of referrals, characteristics of parents, and services to families. The final section, Colorado and National Reporting, lists data on child abuse and neglect reporting across Colorado and provides nationwide comparision rates. The Colorado Abuse/Neglect Reporting Form is contained in the appendix. Four figures and 51 tables are included in the report. (ABB)

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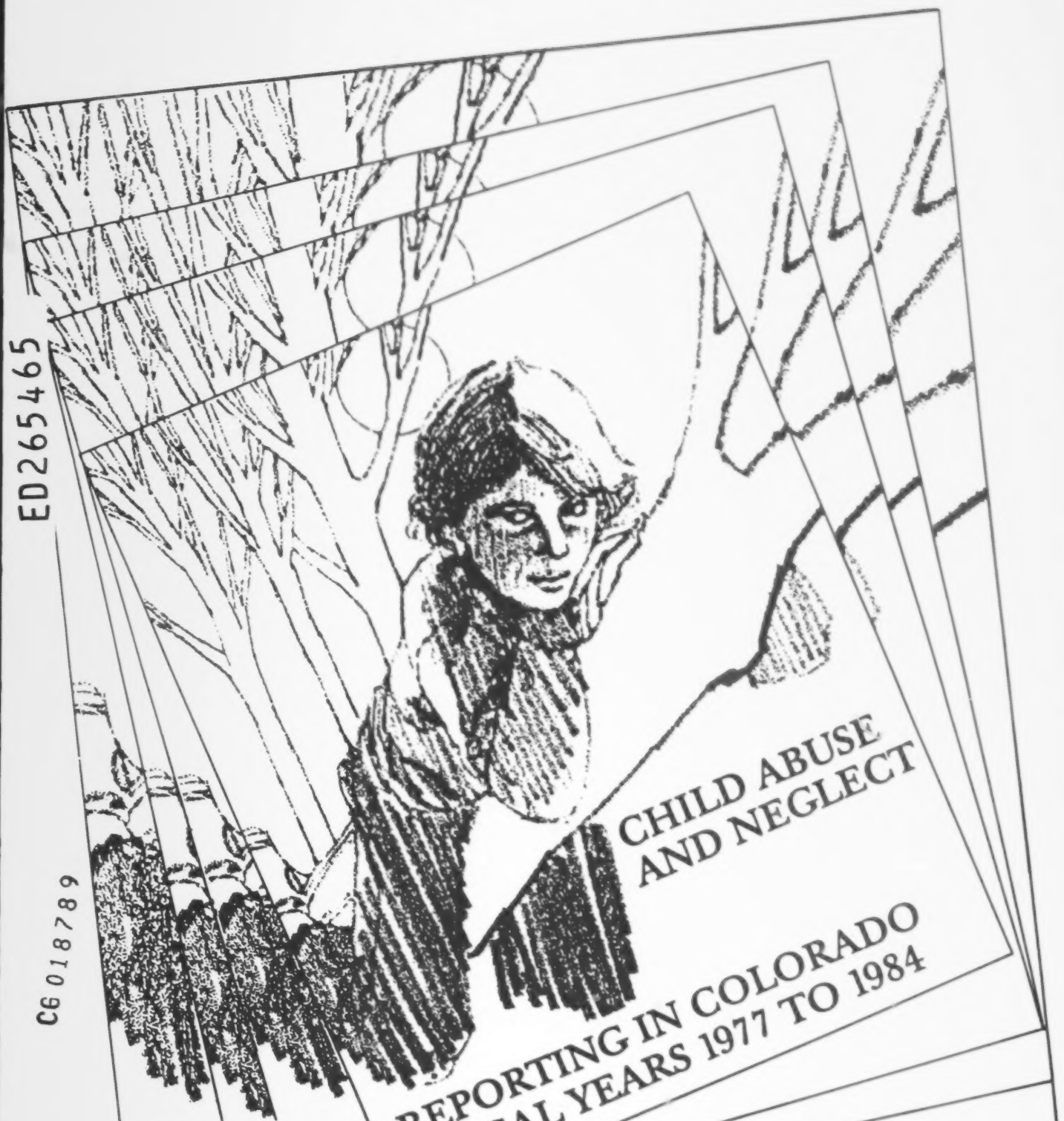

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

REPORTING IN COLORADO FISCAL YEARS 1977 TO 1984

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Published by the Colorado Department of Social Services with funding from the National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect, Administration for Children, Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

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STATE OF COLORADO

Richard D. Lamm
Governor

Dear Reader,

Child abuse and neglect causes pain for victims and parents alike. The Colorado State Department of Social Services is proud of the efforts of its county agencies in serving families experiencing problems in abuse and neglect. Also, county protective services units have played an important role in educating professionals and lay persons in the identification and treatment of abuse and neglect.

The Colorado Central Registry for Child Protection has been a valuable asset to the protective services units. Joann Davies, ACSW, of the Division of Family & Children's Services has served as Director of the Registry since 1972. Ms. Davies' leadership and expertise have been instrumental to the success of protective services efforts across the state.

This report represents the first comprehensive summary of abuse and neglect reporting in Colorado. It should prove informative to agencies and individuals involved in serving Colorado families and children.

Sincerely,

George S. Goldstein Ph.D.,
Executive Director

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I. SUMMARY

After 14 consecutive years of significant increases in neglect and abuse reporting, the total number of reports (both confirmed and unconfirmed) entered in the Colorado Central Registry for Child Protection decreased for the first time in (calendar year) 1984. Reports decreased from 9268 reports in 1983 to 8640 reports in 1984, a decrease of 7%. Data on confirmed reports were available for the State Fiscal Year ending in June, 1984 (FY 1984). Confirmed reports increased marginally from 5220 reports in FY 1983 to 5268 reports in FY 1984, an increase of less than 1%. Confirmed sexual abuse reports continue to increase rapidly; there were 1656 sexual abuse victims in FY 1984 as compared with 1436 victims in FY 1983. This represents a 15% annual increase. In FY 1984, 23% of all victims were victims of sexual abuse.

The Colorado sexual abuse reporting rate is well above the nationwide rate. This attests to the expertise of protective services staff in this area and to community education efforts on the part of protective service staff and others. In turn, the steadily increasing number of sexual abuse cases places increased demands on limited protective service resources.

Other key findings (based on analyses of confirmed reports):

- the comparatively young age of many sexual abuse victims; 29.4% of such FY 1984 victims were under the age of 5; 66.1% had not reached their 13th birthday;
- the concentration of major injuries among very young victims; 51.3% of such injuries in FY 1984 were sustained by children under the age of three;
- the higher risk for serious injury among boys; 130 of 218 such FY 1984 injuries (59.6%) were sustained by boys;
- the predominance of girls among adolescent victims; 71% of FY 1984 victims aged 13 to 17 were female;
- the increasing percentage (16.2% in FY 1984) of perpetrators who are not family members;
- the increasing percentage of reports involving court action (both civil and criminal); in FY 1984, 27.1% of reports involved civil court action and 21.4% involved criminal court action; and
- the FY 1984 statewide reporting rate of 81 confirmed reports per 10,000 Colorado children.

In sorting through the plethora of statistics which comprise this report, it is important to remember that these statistics concern people. The great majority of victims' parents:

- care deeply about their children;
- do a good job in most aspects of parenting; and
- are motivated to work on identified problems.

The protective services worker/client relationship -- more often than not -- is characterized by mutual work toward the common goal of helping children to develop and grow. In conflict situations, the worker strives to protect the rights and integrity of the family while also protecting the rights and interests of the child.

These two goals -- serving child **and** family -- are not always complementary. Yet, they are always necessary and they provide the central ingredients of child protective work in Colorado.

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II. OVERVIEW OF THE CENTRAL REGISTRY

Background

The Colorado Central Registry for Child Protection was founded in 1969. Its primary purpose is to assist the Colorado County Departments of Social Services in their work on behalf of abused and neglected children. Perpetrators of confirmed abuse and neglect can be identified from the Registry. This is important in both the initial investigation of abuse and neglect reports and in the subsequent services plan which is developed for child and family. Also, the Registry file is used in screening applicants for day care centers and family foster homes.

From 1969 through 1984, 58,369 reports were filed with the Registry. The Registry data base was computerized in 1979 and incorporates all confirmed reports submitted since the inception of the Registry. This study focuses on trends and patterns over the past eight State Fiscal Years (FY), Fiscal Years 1977 through 1984. Particular emphasis is placed on FY 1984 reporting. (State Fiscal Years run from July of previous year to June; i.e., FY 1984 was the period lasting from July, 1983 to June, 1984.) Category of report (abuse, neglect, sexual abuse), characteristics of victims, victims' families and perpetrators, county differences in reporting, Colorado reporting as compared with nationwide reporting, and the relationship of socio-demographic factors to reporting levels are discussed.

How a Report Enters the Registry

The report of possible neglect or abuse often originates with a non-professional -- a victim, a parent, a friend, a neighbor or relative, or sometimes with a perpetrator seeking help. This report may be directed to any of a number of professional persons or agencies -- medical practitioners, mental health professionals, social services workers, law enforcement court personnel, teachers or counselors, baby sitters or day care workers. In other cases, the initial report originates with a professional in an agency setting; for instance, a nurse observes a suspicious pattern of injuries or a teacher observes that a child is not appropriately supervised.

The initial Colorado abuse and neglect reporting law was passed in 1963. This law was repealed and reenacted in 1975. The 1975 statute, known as the Child Abuse Reporting Act, stipulated that professionals such as those listed above must report suspected abuse or neglect to county social service departments. The county departments, in turn, are required to investigate all reports of possible abuse or neglect. If the initial county department investigation establishes that the suspected incident is unfounded, no record of the investigation is sent to the Central Registry. If abuse or neglect is confirmed or still suspected following the initial investigation, a report is filed. Approximately three months after the initial report to the Registry, the county department sends a second report which indicates whether the incident has been confirmed. Cases which do not meet the confirmation criteria are expunged from the data base at this time.

How a Report Exits the Registry

Perpetrators identified in confirmed reports are notified in writing that their names appear in the Registry. Further, they are advised of their right to request removal. Upon receipt of a written request to the Director of the Registry, the Director secures from the investigating county all of the documents pertaining to the investigation. If credible evidence exists that abuse or neglect did occur according to the statutory definitions in the Child Abuse Reporting Act, the record may not be expunged. The perpetrator is so advised and notified that he/she has a right to a Fair Hearing. This hearing, held under the rules of Administrative Procedures Act, is conducted by an attorney in the Office of

Appeals and sworn testimony is taken. The burden rests on the county department to document that the abuse/neglect did occur. The Director of the Registry testifies to the accuracy of the report in the Registry. If the Hearing Officer rules against the perpetrator, that person may appeal the decision to the District Court. If the Fair Hearing Officer concludes no credible evidence, the report is expunged from the Registry.

The regulation that confirmed perpetrators be advised by the State Department of Social Services that they are listed in the Registry was enacted in March, 1984. For the period March 1, 1984 thru July 31, 1985 (17 months) 6,269 notices were mailed to persons confirmed as perpetrators. Of this number, 547 requests for expungement were made to the Registry director. The disposition of the requests appears below:

Request denied	260
Request granted	185
Requests pending	102

Of those denied, 48 (17.3%) asked for a Fair Hearing. The disposition of those requests as of July 31, 1985 appears below:

Expungement denied	13
Expungement allowed	7
Action dismissed by Registry Director	2
Report expunged	7
Request vacated by plantiff, report retained	10
Report amended and retained	1
Decision pending	1
Hearings pending	9

III. OVERVIEW OF REPORTING TRENDS AND PATTERNS

Trends Across Time

Table 1 presents the total number of reports to the Colorado Registry. The large increases in reporting reflect increased community awareness and concern as well as the increasing sophistication of county child protective service units in identifying and serving families where abuse and neglect are problems. The impacts of the stronger requirements of the 1975 reporting law can be seen in the large reporting increases at this time. After 14 years of increases, reports decreased slightly in 1984. Figure 1 depicts reporting beginning in 1969.

Table 1

Central Registry Reports: Calendar Years 1969 - 1984

Calendar Year	Number	Change from Previous Year	Percent Change from Previous Year
1969	114	--	--
1970	121	+7	+6
1971	176	+55	+45
1972	373	+177	+50
1973	446	+43	+12
1974	866	+420	+90
1975	1676	+810	+94
1976	2320	+644	+38
1977	3558	+1238	+54
1978	4542	+984	+28
1979	5458	+916	+20
1980	6009	+551	+10
1981	6611	+602	+10
1982	8191	+1580	+24
1983	9268	+1077	+13
1984	8640	-628	-7
1969-1984	58369	--	--

NOTE: *Both confirmed and unconfirmed cases are included.*

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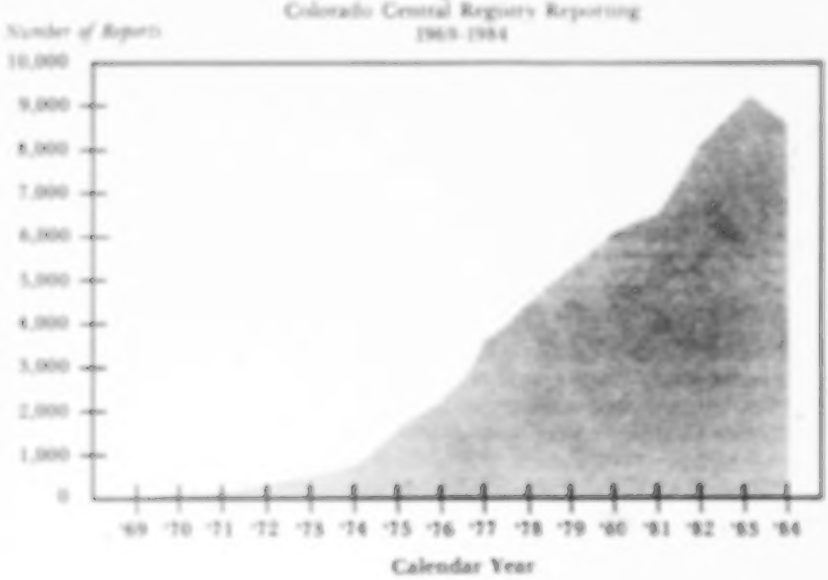
Figure 1
Colorado Central Registry Reporting
1969-1984



Data on confirmation status became available in 1978. Table 2 shows the status of report during the 1978 to 1983 time period. The percentage of confirmed reports has been reasonably steady across the time period studied. In 1983, 57% of reports sent to the Registry were confirmed.

Table 2

Confirmed Versus Unconfirmed Registry Reports:
Calendar Years 1977 - 1983

Calendar Year	Confirmed Reports	Unconfirmed Reports	Total Reports	Percent Confirmed
1977	2012	1546	3558	56
1978	2235	2307	4542	49
1979	2979	2479	5458	55
1980	3561	2448	6009	59
1981	3878	2633	6611	60
1982	4825	3866	8191	59
1983	5314	3954	9268	57

NOTE: Calendar year 1984 data on confirmed reports was not available at time of this writing.

Table 3 presents the number of confirmed reports and the number of victims listed on confirmed reports. The number of victims exceeds the number of reports because more than one victim is sometimes listed. Although confirmed reports increased slightly from FY 1983 to FY 1984, the number of confirmed victims declined for the first time.

Table 3

Confirmed Registry Reports and Confirmed Registry Victims:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984

Fiscal Year	Reports		Victims	
	Number	Percent Change	Number	Percent Change
1977	1636	–	2285	–
1978	2094	+28	2853	+25
1979	2620	+25	3607	+26
1980	3400	+30	4654	+29
1981	3729	+10	4947	+ 6
1982	4442	+19	6067	+22
1983	5220	+18	7130	+18
1984	5268	+ 1	7094	– 1

For purposes of conducting more detailed analyses, eight categories of abuse and neglect reporting were developed. These categories with brief definitions are:

serious injury:	brain damage, skull fracture, bone fracture, dislocations, sprains, twists, internal injuries, serious burns and scalds, serious cuts, bruises, and welts;
minor injury:	burns, scalds, cuts, bruises and welts not judged as serious;
neglect of basics:	malnutrition, exposure to elements, physical neglect, abandonment, failure to thrive, locking in/out, poisoning (unintentional), lack of supervision;
emotional neglect:	severe and persistent cruelty or rejection resulting in substantial impairment of emotional well-being or social functioning;
medical/educational neglect)	inadequate access to medical or educational services;
sexual abuse:	both incest and third-party abuse are included; and
other:	abuse or neglect in a category not specified above.

Table 4 shows trends for the report categories in the past eight fiscal years. **Total confirmed reports increased from 2,285 reports in FY 1977 to 7,094 reports in FY 1984, an increase of 210%.** In contrast with total reports, confirmed serious injury reports increased at a much slower pace; these reports increased by 31% in the eight-year period. **On the other hand, confirmed reports of sexual abuse increased by 587% from FY 1977 to FY 1984, by far exceeding the corresponding increase in total reports.** The changing pattern of reports across time reflects, most probably, a shift in reporting practices rather than a major shift in the kinds of abuse and neglect which children are experiencing. The slow increase in physical abuse reports may reflect that community professionals and lay persons were already sensitive to the dynamics of serious physical abuse in the late 1970's and were quite apt to report such cases to the protective services agencies.

On the other hand, persons may have been hesitant to report some of the perhaps "less serious" abuse and neglect situations. (The term "less serious" is misleading as often times the "less serious" initial reports, upon investigation, are the most serious cases). The steady increases in minor injury reporting and neglect reporting seem to reflect that professionals are now more scrupulously following reporting laws which require that reports be made in all situations where abuse or neglect is suspected, not just in those where injuries are serious.

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Table 4

Category of Confirmed Report
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984

Category of Report	State Fiscal Year								
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1977-1984
Serious injury	166	146	167	196	191	203	212	218	1499
Minor injury	601	1079	1332	1663	1869	2074	2224	2142	13184
Neglect of basics	717	921	1386	1611	1700	2216	2559	2546	13656
Emotional neglect	346	387	538	634	598	776	913	839	5031
Medical/educ. neglect	191	251	339	318	349	448	478	448	2822
Sexual Abuse	241	361	459	685	787	1042	1436	1656	6667
Other than above	175	225	252	428	396	547	709	687	3419
All reports	2285	2853	3607	4654	4947	6067	7130	7094	38637

NOTE: *Table shows number of victims listed on reports. Sum of numbers in columns does not equal "All reports" because more than one category of report was indicated for some children and because cases where category of report was missing are not listed. Category of report was missing for 1672 victims. (Missing cases are included in "All reports" figures.)*

The rapid increase in sexual abuse referrals reflects the increased public awareness in this area and also the increased emphasis in the county departments towards serving families where sexual abuse has been a problem. Sexual abuse reports were divided into two categories, incest referrals and third-party (unrelated) reports. Incest reports were defined as reports in which the perpetrator to victim relationship was as natural parent, step-parent, adoptive parent, foster parent, sibling (natural, adoptive, or step-sibling), or other relative. These results are presented in Table 5. The rate of increase is greater for third-party reports which increased by 1226% from 1977 to 1984.

Table 5

Confirmed Third-party Sexual Abuse and Incest Reports:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984

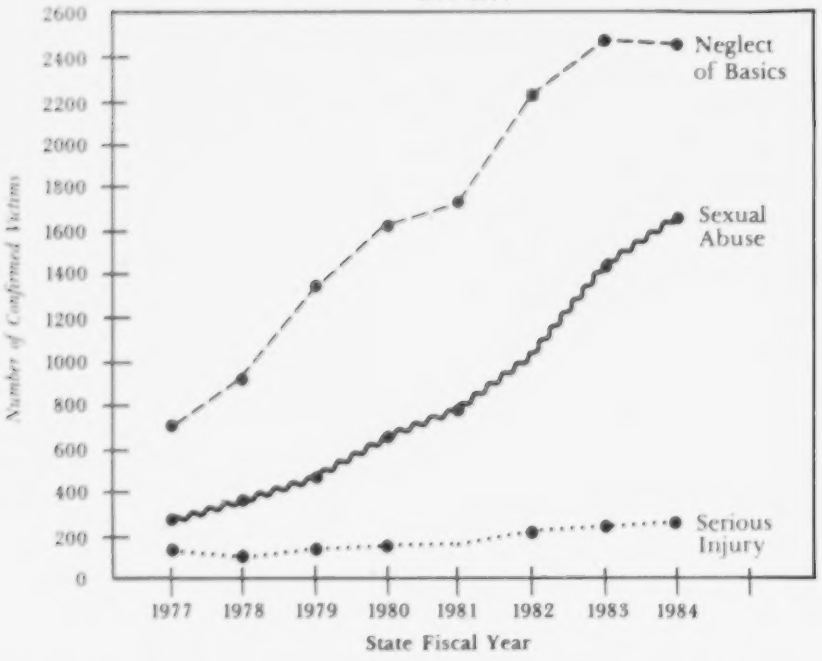
State Fiscal Year	Third-party Reports		Incest Reports	
	Number	Percent Change	Number	Percent Change
1977	42	–	199	–
1978	68	+38	293	+47
1979	110	+62	349	+19
1980	148	+35	537	+27
1981	204	+38	583	+ 9
1982	321	+57	721	+23
1983	478	+49	958	+14
1984	557	+14	1099	+14
1977-1984	1928	–	4739	–

Among sexual abuse victims, the proportion of incest cases (as opposed to third-party cases) increases with the age of the victim. Among FY 1984 victims less than five years old, 58% (209 of 360) of sexual abuse victims were incest victims; of those aged six to twelve years, 65% (478 of 754) were incest victims; and of those aged 13 to 17 years, 73% (412 of 562) were incest victims.

It should be noted that not all confirmed serious injuries were the result of abuse. In FY 1984, 76.7% (167 of 218) of serious injuries resulted from abuse and 16.5% (36 of 218) resulted from neglect. Both neglect and abuse were indicated for 6.9% (15 of 218) serious injuries. When all confirmed FY 1984 reports are considered, 59.3% (4209 of 7094) were abuse reports, and 37.1% (2632 of 7094) were neglect reports. Both abuse and neglect were listed in 3.6%

(253 of 7094) of all reports. Figure 2 depicts changes for three selected categories of reporting over the past eight years.

Figure 2
Serious Injury, Neglect of Basics, and Sexual Abuse Victims
1977-1984



From January 1977 to December 1984, a total of 117 deaths from child abuse or neglect were recorded, an average of almost 15 deaths per year. There were 20 such deaths in 1984. Seven victims (35%) were under the age of one, five (25%) were one year old, five (25%) were two, and three (15%) were aged three or above. Fourteen of the 20 victims were boys. Table 6 shows fatalities over the past 8 years.

Table 6

Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities: 1977 - 1984

Year	Number of Fatalities
1977	15
1978	12
1979	10
1980	19
1981	10
1982	20
1983	11
1984	20
1977-1984	117

Of the 110 fatalities listed in the Registry for Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984, 76 (69%) resulted from abuse while 27 (25%) resulted from neglect. Both abuse and neglect were indicated in seven (6%) reports.

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Colorado Reporting Rates

Population estimates were gathered from the Colorado Division of Local Government so that rates of abuse and neglect reporting could be analyzed. **The State Fiscal Year 1984 reporting rate is 81 confirmed victims per 10,000 children aged 0 - 17.** The overall reporting rate is higher for girls, 91 victims per 10,000 girls, than for boys, 71 reports per 10,000 boys. For female victims, the reporting rate is reasonably constant across different age groups. Reporting rates for boys, in contrast, drop markedly at adolescence. Table 7 presents reporting rates.

Table 7

Rate of Confirmed Reports for Male and Female Victims in Different Age Groups: State Fiscal Year 1984

	SFY 1984 Confirmed Incidents per 10,000 Children		
Age Group	**Male Victims**	**Female Victims**	**Overall Rate**
Less than one	84	71	78
One or two	97	89	93
Three to five	91	97	94
Six to twelve	80	96	88
Thirteen to seventeen	36	89	62
All victims: 0 - 17	71	91	81

NOTE: *Source of population estimates: Colorado Division of Local Government. Where two or more reports were filed on same child, all such reports were counted. The reporting rates are based on status of Central Registry file in April, 1985. Most other analyses in report are based on status of file in May, 1985.*

The relationship of reporting rates to the different report categories was analyzed. Reporting rates for the categories are presented in Tables 8 to 11. These tables show reporting rates for male and female victims and for children of different ages. Of particular interest is the sexual abuse category. Reporting rates for sexual abuse are quite high among younger children, those in the three-to-five and six-to-twelve age groups. For instance, as indicated in Table 9, the sexual abuse rates for children aged six to 12 and for children aged 13 to 17 are the same, 23 victims per year per 10,000 children in the age group. The tables indicate that reporting rates for neglect are higher for pre-school children (see Table 9) and that the reporting rate for serious injuries declines markedly as children grow older (see Table 9). The risk for serious injury from abuse or neglect is considerably higher among boys than girls. Tables 10 and 11, when compared, point out the higher serious injury rates among boys in different age groups.

Table 8

Rate of Confirmed Reports in Different Report Categories for Male and Female Victims: State Fiscal Year 1984

Category of Report	FY 1984 Confirmed Incidents per 10,000 Children Aged 0-17		
	Male Victims	**Female Victims**	**Overall Rate**
Serious injury	3	2	3
Minor injury	25	25	25
Neglect of basics	31	28	29
Emotional neglect	9	10	10
Medical/educ. neglect	5	5	5
Sexual abuse	7	31	19
Other than above	8	8	8
All reports	71	91	81

NOTE: *Source of population estimates: Colorado Division of Local Government. Sum of columns does not equal "All reports" because more than one category of report was indicated for some victims. Where two or more reports were filed on same child, all such reports were counted. Based on Registry file in April, 1985 (see NOTE in Table 7).*

Table 9

Rate of Confirmed Reports by Category of Report for Victims in Different Age Groups: State Fiscal Year 1984

Category of Report	FY 1984 Incidents per 10,000 Children by Age Group				
	Less than One Year	One to Two Years	Three to Five Years	Six to to Twelve Years	Thirteen to Seventeen Years
Serious injury	10	6	2	1	1
Minor injury	13	23	24	28	25
Neglect of basics	46	51	41	30	9
Emotional neglect	12	13	11	11	6
Medical/educ. neglect	10	8	5	5	2
Sexual Abuse	0	7	20	23	23
Other than above	13	10	9	7	6
All Reports	78	93	94	88	62

NOTE: *Source of population estimates: Colorado Division of Local Government. Sum of columns does not equal "All reports" because more than one category of report was indicated for some victims. Where two or more reports were filed on same child, all such reports were counted. Based on Registry file in April, 1985 (see NOTE in Table 7).*

Table 10

Rate of Confirmed Reports by Category of Report for Male Victims in Different Age Groups: State Fiscal Year 1984

Category of Report	FY 1984 Incidents per 10,000 Children by Age Group				
	Less than One Year	One to Two Years	Three to Five Years	Six to to Twelve Years	Thirteen to Seventeen Years
Serious injury	13	7	3	1	1
Minor injury	14	28	29	31	17
Neglect of basics	50	53	44	32	7
Emotional neglect	14	13	11	11	5
Medical/educ. neglect	11	9	5	5	2
Sexual Abuse	0	3	10	9	5
Other than above	14	12	9	7	5
All Reports	84	97	91	80	36

NOTE: *Source of population estimates: Colorado Division of Local Government. Sum of columns does not equal "All reports" because more than one category of report was indicated for some victims. Where two or more reports were filed on same child, all such reports were counted. Based on Registry file in April, 1985 (see Table 7 NOTE).*

Table 11

Rate of Confirmed Reports by Category of Report for Female Victims in Different Age Groups: State Fiscal Year 1984

Category of Report	FY 1984 Incidents per 10,000 Female Children by Age				
	Less than One Year	One to Two Years	Three to Five Years	Six to to Twelve Years	Thirteen to Seventeen Years
Serious injury	7	5	2	1	1
Minor injury	12	18	19	25	33
Neglect of basics	42	49	38	28	11
Emotional neglect	10	13	11	11	5
Medical/educ. neglect	9	7	5	5	2
Sexual Abuse	0	11	30	37	41
Other than above	12	8	9	7	7
All Reports	71	89	97	96	89

NOTE: *Source of population estimates: Colorado Division of Local Government. Sum of columns does not equal "All reports" because more than one category of report was indicated for some victims. Where two or more reports were filed on same child, all such reports were counted. Based on Registry file as of April 1, 1985 (see Table 7 NOTE).*

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IV. DETAILED ANALYSES OF REPORTING PATTERNS

Reporting Patterns in Relationship to Age and Sex Characteristics

The focus of this report now shifts from reporting rates to actual reports received. Results are presented for both the FY 1977 to FY 1984 time period and for FY 1984. Tables depicting these two time periods can be compared for the purpose of discerning trends across time. Tables 12 to 21 show the numbers and percentages of reports for male and female victims in different age groups. Several patterns stand out:

- the percentage of reports involving serious injuries is higher among very young victims (see Tables 14 and 15);
- the number of reports and the percentage of reports involving serious injuries are higher for male victims (see Tables 12 and 13, compare Tables 16 and 18, compare Tables 17 and 19);
- prior to age 13, male victims outnumber female victims in most reporting categories (see, in particular, Tables 20 and 21); and
- among adolescents, female victims outnumber male victims in all reporting categories (see, in particular, Tables 20 and 21).

The predominance of females among victims of adolescent abuse is marked and applies to all categories of reports, not only to sexual abuse. For instance, as shown in Table 21, 61% of (235 of 384) of all FY 1984 adolescent physical injury (serious and minor injuries added together) victims were female. As presented in Table 21, 71% (1093 of 1538) of all FY 1984 adolescent victims were female.

The high percentage of female adolescent victims is related as much to a decline in the number of male victims as to an increase in female victims. Figure 3 shows the number of FY 1984 male and female victims at each age. The number of male victims begins to decline at about age seven. In contrast, the number of female victims is reasonably constant at different ages, showing a moderate increase during early adolescence.

Table 12

Category of Confirmed Report for Male and Female Victims:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984

Category of Reports	*Sex of Victim* Male Victims N	%	Female Victims N	%	All Victims N	%
Serious injury	823	5	668	3	1499	4
Minor injury	6672	40	6442	32	13184	36
Neglect of basics	7128	42	6457	32	13656	37
Emotional neglect	2518	15	2484	13	5031	14
Medical/educational neglect	1443	9	1367	7	2822	8
Sexual abuse	1127	7	5484	28	6667	19
Other than above	1667	10	1729	9	3419	7
All reports	17635	100	20758	100	38637	100

NOTE: *Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Sum of numbers in columns does not equal "All reports" because more than one category was indicated for some victims. Data missing for 1902 victims. (All reports and all victims" totals include missing values).*

Table 13

Category of Confirmed Report for Male and Female Victims:
State Fiscal Year 1984

Category of Reports	Sex of Victim: Male Victims N	%	Female Victims N	%	All Victims N	%
Serious injury	130	4	88	2	218	3
Minor injury	1091	36	1048	27	2142	31
Neglect of basics	1333	44	1206	31	2546	37
Emotional neglect	403	13	436	11	839	12
Medical/educational neglect	217	6	231	7	448	6
Sexual abuse	286	9	1367	35	1656	23
Other than above	342	11	343	9	687	10
All reports	3121	100	3957	100	7094	100

NOTE: *Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Sum of numbers in columns does not equal "All reports" because more than one category was indicated for some victims. Data missing for 127 victims. (All Reports" and "All victims" figures include missing values).*

Table 14

Category of Confirmed Report in Different Age Groups:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984

Category of Report	Age Group of Victim: Less than one Year N	%	One to Two Years N	%	Three to Five Years N	%	Six to Twelve Years N	%	Thirteen to Seventeen Years N	%	All Ages N	%
Serious injury	389	15	382	8	228	3	258	2	227	3	1499	4
Minor injury	448	17	1534	32	2216	33	5435	37	3477	47	13184	36
Neglect of basics	1458	56	2413	51	2954	44	5471	37	1267	17	13656	37
Emotional neglect	385	15	703	15	947	14	2070	14	886	12	5031	14
Medical/educ. neglect	429	16	476	10	433	6	1057	7	402	5	2822	2
Sexual abuse	26	1	240	5	1079	16	2973	20	2281	30	6667	14
Other than above	391	15	512	11	636	9	1140	8	695	9	3419	7
All Reports	2712	100	5021	100	7076	100	15575	100	7923	100	38637	100

NOTE: *Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Sum of numbers in columns does not equal "All reports" because more than one category was indicated for some victims. Data missing for 1956 victims. (Missing cases included in "All reports" and "All ages" figures.)*

Table 15

Category of Confirmed Report in Different Age Groups:
State Fiscal Year 1984

Category of Report	Age Group of Victim: Less than one Year N	%	One to Two Years N	%	Three to Five Years N	%	Six to Twelve Years N	%	Thirteen to Seventeen Years N	%	All Ages N	%
Serious injury	55	13	57	6	33	3	41	2	32	2	218	3
Minor injury	65	15	228	25	346	26	885	32	618	41	2142	31
Neglect of basics	249	60	516	56	582	44	965	35	234	16	2546	37
Emotional neglect	53	13	132	14	157	12	349	13	148	10	839	12
Medical/educ. neglect	66	16	80	9	76	6	168	6	58	4	448	6
Sexual abuse	1	0	69	7	290	22	734	26	562	37	1656	24
Other than above	70	17	104	11	127	10	234	8	152	10	687	10
All Reports	428	100	951	100	1351	100	2823	100	1541	100	7093	100

NOTE: *Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Sum of numbers in columns does not equal "All reports" because more than one category was indicated for some victims. Data missing for 112 victims. (Missing cases included in "All reports" and "All ages" figures.)*

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Table 16

Category of Confirmed Report for Male Victims in Different Age Groups: State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984

Category of Report	Age Group of Male Victim: Less than one Year N	%	One to Two Years N	%	Three to Five Years N	%	Six to Twelve Years N	%	Thirteen to Seventeen Years N	%	All Ages N	%
Serious injury	220	16	217	9	136	4	144	2	97	4	823	5
Minor injury	242	18	892	35	1292	38	3045	43	1169	53	6672	40
Neglect of basics	759	55	1255	49	1544	45	2921	41	602	27	7128	42
Emotional neglect	216	16	372	15	509	15	1060	15	337	15	2518	15
Medical/educ. neglect	231	17	270	11	227	7	521	7	180	8	1443	9
Sexual abuse	8	1	69	3	271	8	562	8	210	9	1127	7
Other than above	196	14	264	10	341	10	579	8	267	12	1667	10
All Reports	1436	100	2657	100	3600	100	7448	100	2362	100	17635	100

NOTE: *Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Sum of numbers in columns does not equal "All reports" because more than one category was indicated for some victims. Data missing for 927 victims. (Missing cases included in "All reports" and "All ages" figures.)*

Table 17

Category of Confirmed Report for Male Victims in Different Age Groups: State Fiscal Year 1984

Category of Report	Age Group of Male Victim: Less than one Year N	%	One to Two Years N	%	Three to Five Years N	%	Six to Twelve Years N	%	Thirteen to Seventeen Years N	%	All Ages N	%
Serious injury	37	16	35	7	21	3	21	2	16	4	130	4
Minor injury	35	15	141	29	208	32	408	39	219	50	1091	36
Neglect of basics	137	60	268	55	308	48	521	41	99	23	1333	44
Emotional neglect	31	14	64	13	75	12	182	14	51	12	403	13
Medical/educ. neglect	31	14	43	9	37	6	83	7	23	5	217	6
Sexual abuse	0	0	15	3	75	12	139	11	57	13	286	9
Other than above	33	14	60	12	67	10	116	9	66	15	342	11
All Reports	233	100	496	100	659	100	1288	100	445	100	3121	100

NOTE: *Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Sum of numbers in columns does not equal "All reports" because more than one category was indicated for some victims. Data missing for 54 victims. (Missing cases included in "All reports" and "All ages" figures.)*

Table 18

Category of Confirmed Report for Female Victims in Different Age Groups: State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984

Category of Report	Age Group of Female Victim: Less than one Year N	%	One to Two Years N	%	Three to Five Years N	%	Six to Twelve Years N	%	Thirteen to Seventeen Years N	%	All Ages N	%
Serious injury	165	14	164	7	90	3	113	2	130	2	668	3
Minor injury	204	17	631	28	915	28	2363	31	2288	43	6442	32
Neglect of basics	690	56	1144	51	1394	42	2525	33	661	12	6457	32
Emotional neglect	166	14	325	15	434	13	999	13	544	10	2484	13
Medical/educ. neglect	196	16	204	9	205	6	531	7	221	4	1367	7
Sexual abuse	17	1	169	8	800	24	2384	31	2058	39	5484	28
Other than above	192	16	242	11	290	9	556	7	426	8	1729	9
All Reports	1260	100	2326	100	3431	100	8037	100	5518	100	38637	100

NOTE: *Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Sum of numbers in columns does not equal "All reports" because more than one category was indicated for some victims. Data missing for 1003 victims. (Missing cases included in "All reports" and "All ages" figures.)*

Table 19

Category of Confirmed Report for Female Victims in Different Age Groups: State Fiscal Year 1984

Category of Report	Age Group of Female Victim: Less than one Year N	%	One to Two Years N	%	Three to Five Years N	%	Six to Twelve Years N	%	Thirteen to Seventeen Years N	%	All Ages N	%
Serious injury	18	9	22	5	12	2	20	1	16	2	88	2
Minor injury	30	15	87	20	138	20	395	26	398	37	1048	27
Neglect of basics	113	59	247	56	274	40	445	29	134	13	1206	31
Emotional neglect	22	11	68	16	82	12	167	11	97	9	436	11
Medical/educ. neglect	35	18	37	8	39	6	85	6	35	3	231	7
Sexual abuse	1	1	54	12	214	31	593	39	505	47	1367	35
Other than above	37	19	43	10	59	9	118	8	86	8	343	9
All Reports	194	100	452	100	689	100	1529	100	1093	100	3957	100

NOTE: *Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Sum of numbers in columns does not equal "All reports" because more than one category was indicated for some victims. Data missing for 57 victims. (Missing cases included in "All reports" and "All ages" figures.)*

An abrupt shift in the pattern of reports takes place as children reach adolescence. In most reporting categories for children ages 0 - 12, boys are the more frequent victims. Among adolescent victims, girls are more frequent victims of all categories of abuse and neglect. Tables 20 & 21 show the distinct differences in the pattern of reporting for adolescents and younger victims.

Table 20

Category of Confirmed Report for Male and Female Victims Ages 0 - 12 and 13 - 17: State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984

Category of Report	Age Group of Victim: Twelve and Younger # of male victims	# of female victims	% female	Thirteen to Seventeen # of male victims	# of female victims	% female
Serious injury	717	532	43	97	130	57
Minor injury	5471	4113	43	1169	2288	66
Neglect of basics	6479	5753	47	602	661	52
Emotional neglect	2157	1924	47	337	544	62
Medical/educ. neglect	1249	1136	48	180	221	55
Sexual abuse	910	3370	79	210	2058	91
Other than above	1380	1386	93	267	426	62
All Reports	15141	15054	50	2362	5518	70

NOTE: *Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Sum of columns does not equal "All reports" because more than one category of report was indicated for some victims. Where two or more reports were filed on same child, all such reports were counted. Category of report missing for 2174 cases. (Missing cases included in "All reports" - figures.)*

Table 21

Category of Confirmed Report for Male and Female Victims Ages 0 - 12 and 13 - 17: State Fiscal Year 1984

Category of Report	Age Group of Victim: Twelve and Younger # of male victims	# of female victims	% female	Thirteen to Seventeen # of male victims	# of female victims	% female
Serious injury	114	72	39	16	16	50
Minor injury	872	650	43	219	133	64
Neglect of basics	1234	1073	47	99	661	57
Emotional neglect	354	339	49	51	97	66
Medical/educ. neglect	194	196	50	23	35	60
Sexual abuse	243	862	78	57	505	86
Other than above	276	257	48	66	86	57
All Reports	2676	2864	52	445	1093	71

NOTE: *Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Sum of columns does not equal "All reports" because more than one category of report was indicated for some victims. Where two or more reports were filed on same child, all such reports were counted. Category of report missing for 127 cases. (Missing cases included in "All reports" figures.)*

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The categories of report which have been utilized represent groupings of more specific kinds of injuries and/or neglect. Table 22 presents the most detailed breakdown of category of report which can be taken from the reporting form. In FY 1984, boys sustained 58% of brain damage/skull fracture injuries (38 of 65), 60% of subdural hemorrhage injuries (21 of 35), 66% of bone fractures (40 of 61) and 56% of internal injuries (10 of 18).

Table 22

Detailed Breakdown of Category of Confirmed Report:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 and State Fiscal Year 1984

Category of Report	State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984		State Fiscal Year 1984	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Brain damage/skull fracture	252	0.7	44	0.6
Subdural hemorrhage	153	0.4	35	0.5
Bone fracture	421	1.1	61	0.9
Dislocation/sprains/twist/shake	251	0.7	35	0.5
Internal injuries	116	0.3	18	0.3
Malnutrition	309	0.8	42	0.6
Failure to thrive	687	1.9	91	1.3
Exposure to elements	334	0.9	45	0.6
Locking in/out	494	1.3	76	1.1
Poisoning (unintentional)	77	0.2	6	0.1
Burns/scalds	752	2.0	122	1.7
Cuts/bruises/welts	13547	36.6	2173	31.1
3rd party sexual abuse	1928	5.2	557	8.0
Incest	4739	12.8	1099	15.7
Congenital drug addiction	52	0.1	5	0.1
Physical neglect	6538	17.7	1198	17.2
Emotional neglect	5031	13.6	839	12.0
Medical neglect	1981	5.4	312	4.5
Educational neglect	1088	2.9	158	2.3
Abandonment	1195	3.2	167	2.4
Lack of supervision	8203	22.2	1559	22.3
Other	3371	9.1	684	9.8
All reports	38637	100.0	7094	100.0

NOTE: *Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Sum of numbers in columns does not equal "All reports" because more than one category was indicated for some victims. Data missing in FY 1977 - 1984 for 1672 victims and missing in FY 1984 for 112 victims. (Missing cases included in "All reports" figures.)*

Characteristics of Perpetrators

The great majority of perpetrators were parents of victims. Table 23 shows, for instance, that 76.1% of all perpetrators in FY 1984 were parents (natural, adoptive or step-parents). Female perpetrators tended to be natural parents of victims; 85.9% of all female perpetrators in FY 1984 were natural parents. In contrast, only 43.8% of FY 1984 male perpetrators were natural parents. 19.8% of male perpetrators as compared with 3.5% of female perpetrators were step-parents.

A high percentage of male perpetrators (17.0% in FY 1984 as shown on Table 25) were listed in the "other/non-relative" category. This category includes neighbors, casual acquaintances, and sometimes, temporary "live-in boy friends". As a comparison of Tables 24 and 25 reveals, the percentage of such perpetrator's in FY 1984 was markedly above the corresponding percentage for the FY 1977-1984 period. The high percentage of such perpetrators and the increase across time suggest the importance of community approaches to dealing with child abuse and neglect. Even if the majority of perpetrators are parents, an increasing percentage of reports involve perpetrators who are not family members.

The number of perpetrators affiliated with human service programs was reasonably low; 36 foster parents and 18 institutional staff members were listed on Table 23 as perpetrators in FY 1984. Yet, this low number may be deceiving.

The degree of under-reporting of abuse and neglect in human services settings is unknown.

The number of repeat incidents of abuse and neglect closely following the initial report can only be estimated. In 4.1% (218 of 5268) of FY 1984 reports, social workers completing the follow-up form indicated that there had been a repeat of abusive incidents in the three-month time period between the initial report and the follow-up. Tables 23 to 26 present selected data on perpetrators.

Table 23

Relationship of Perpetrators to Victims:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 and State Fiscal Year 1984

Relationship of Perpetrator	State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984		State Fiscal Year 1984	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Natural parent	19911	64.9	3506	61.6
Adoptive parent	747	2.4	205	1.8
Step-parent	3670	12.0	722	12.7
Foster parent	164	0.5	36	0.6
Grand parent	323	1.1	78	1.4
Parent, unspecified	551	1.8	60	1.1
Sibling	672	2.2	135	2.4
Other-relative	787	2.6	215	3.8
Foster-sibling	8	0.0	1	0.0
Sitter/child care	812	2.6	147	2.6
Institution staff	77	0.3	18	0.3
Teacher	324	1.1	52	0.9
Other/non-relative	2527	8.2	596	12.1
Unknown	84	0.3	18	0.3
TOTAL	30657	100.0	5689	100.0

NOTE: *Only confirmed reports counted. Table lists relationship of perpetrator to the first victim listed on reporting form. Number of perpetrators exceeds number of reports as more than one perpetrator is sometimes listed. Data missing in FY 1977 - 1984 for 1952 reports and missing in FY 1984 for 350 reports.*

Table 24

Relationship to Victim for Male and Female Perpetrators:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984

Relationship of Perpetrator	Sex of Perpetrator: Female		Male	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Natural parent	1924	84.9	7910	48.3
Adoptive parent	154	1.1	587	3.6
Step-parent	534	3.8	3116	19.0
Foster parent	86	0.6	77	0.5
Grand parent	109	0.8	203	1.2
Parent, unspecified	230	1.6	317	1.9
Sibling	94	0.7	572	3.5
Other-relative	126	0.9	641	3.9
Foster-sibling	0	0.0	8	0.0
Sitter/child care	421	3.0	355	2.2
Institution staff	18	0.1	50	0.3
Teacher	122	0.9	197	1.2
Other/non-relative	214	1.5	2254	13.8
Unknown	7	0.0	73	0.4
TOTAL	14039	100.0	16360	100.0

NOTE: *Only confirmed reports included. Table lists relationship of perpetrator to the first victim listed on reporting form. Number of perpetrators exceeds number of reports because more than one perpetrator is sometimes listed. Data missing in 2156 cases.*

Table 25

Relationship to Victim for Male and Female Perpetrators:
State Fiscal Year 1984

	Sex of Perpetrator			
	Female		Male	
Relationship of Perpetrator	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Natural parent	2122	85.8	1377	43.1
Adoptive parent	14	0.6	91	2.8
Step-parent	86	3.5	633	19.8
Foster parent	18	0.7	18	0.7
Grand parent	20	0.8	57	1.8
Parent, unspecified	21	0.8	39	1.2
Sibling	18	0.7	116	3.6
Other-relative	29	1.2	184	5.8
Foster-sibling	0	0.0	1	0.0
Sitter/child care	64	2.6	79	2.5
Institution staff	3	0.1	15	0.5
Teacher	23	0.9	29	0.9
Other/non-relative	50	2.0	543	17.0
Unknown	4	0.2	14	0.4
TOTAL	2472	100.0	3196	100.0

NOTE: *Only confirmed reports counted. Table lists relationship of perpetrator to the first victim listed on reporting form. Number of perpetrators exceeds number of reports because more than one perpetrator is sometimes listed. Data missing in 365 cases.*

Table 26

Age of Perpetrators:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 and State Fiscal Year 1984

	State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984		State Fiscal Year 1984	
Age of Perpetrator	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
12 or below	176	0.8	43	0.9
13 to 17	1307	6.0	285	6.3
18 to 25	5921	27.3	1181	26.0
26 to 39	1184	51.5	2376	52.3
40 to 59	2890	13.3	598	13.2
60 and up	225	1.0	62	1.4

NOTE: *Based on count of reports; i.e. if multiple victims on a report, perpetrator counted only once. Because of concerns with accuracy of data, perpetrators in the 12 and below category were counted only if they were siblings to the victim; hence the count of 0 - 12 perpetrators listed here is conservative. 9595 missing cases for FY 1977 - 1984. 1331 missing cases for FY 1984.*

Tables 27 and 28 show the relationship of perpetrator to victim for four selected categories of reporting. The very different pattern for sexual abuse reports stands out. When compared with physical injury and neglect perpetrators, a much lower percentage of sexual abuse perpetrators were natural parents of victims. In FY 1984, as shown in Table 28, 23.5% of sexual abuse perpetrators in contrast with 64.0% of serious injury perpetrators, 65.2% of minor injury perpetrators and 83.5% of neglect of basics perpetrators were natural parents of victims. On the other hand, a much higher percentage of sexual abuse perpetrators were related to the victim as grandparents, siblings, or as other relatives. Also, a higher percentage of sexual abuse perpetrators (27.1% in FY 1984) were classified in the "other/non-relative" category (see Table 28).

Table 27

Relationship of Perpetrator to Victim for Selected Categories of Confirmed Reports: State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984

Relationship of Perpetrator	Category of Report: Serious injury N	Serious injury %	Minor injury N	Minor injury %	Neglect of basics N	Neglect of basics %	Sexual Abuse N	Sexual Abuse %
Natural parent	1032	64.0	9056	65.0	14654	84.4	1844	27.9
Adoptive parent	25	1.6	413	3.0	104	0.6	262	4.0
Step-parent	179	11.1	2032	14.6	1089	6.3	1136	17.2
Foster parent	13	0.8	86	0.6	64	0.4	42	0.6
Grandparent	11	0.7	97	0.7	90	0.5	179	2.7
Parent, unspecified	32	2.0	310	2.2	254	1.5	94	1.4
Sibling	25	1.6	244	1.7	131	0.8	447	6.8
Other relative	45	3.9	228	1.6	153	0.9	560	8.5
Sitter/child care	61	5.7	394	2.8	220	1.3	300	4.5
Institution	6	0.4	32	0.2	29	0.2	23	0.3
Teacher	25	1.6	168	1.2	90	0.7	83	1.3
Other/non-relative	151	9.4	854	6.1	500	2.9	1577	23.9

NOTE: *Each perpetrator listed on form assumed to: 1) have abused and/or neglected each victim listed and 2) have committed each category of maltreatment listed for each victim. Data missing for 2393 victims.*

Table 28

Relationship of Perpetrator to Victim for Selected Categories of Confirmed Reports: State Fiscal Year 1984

Relationship of Perpetrator	Category of Report: Serious injury N	Serious injury %	Minor injury N	Minor injury %	Neglect of basics N	Neglect of basics %	Sexual Abuse N	Sexual Abuse %
Natural parent	151	64.0	1504	65.2	2726	83.5	371	23.5
Adoptive parent	3	1.3	50	2.2	15	0.5	55	3.5
Step-parent	25	10.6	388	16.8	213	6.5	248	15.7
Foster parent	4	1.7	8	0.3	25	0.8	11	0.7
Grandparent	1	0.4	16	0.7	21	0.6	60	3.8
Parent, unspecified	3	1.3	34	1.5	31	0.9	11	0.7
Sibling	3	1.3	27	1.2	19	0.6	115	7.3
Other relative	4	1.7	48	2.1	27	0.8	170	10.8
Sitter/child care	8	3.4	54	2.3	46	1.4	81	5.1
Institution	2	0.8	6	0.3	22	0.7	4	0.3
Teacher	2	0.8	168	1.2	90	0.5	16	1.0
Other/non-relative	27	11.4	854	6.1	500	2.9	428	27.1

NOTE: *Each perpetrator listed on form assumed to: 1) have abused and/or neglected each victim listed and 2) have committed each category of maltreatment listed for each victim. Data missing for 537 victims.*

The relationship of sex of perpetrator to age of victim was examined. **As the age of the victims increases, the percentage of male perpetrators increases.** Thus, in FY 1984, 47.5% (3027 of 6369) of perpetrators of children ages 12 and below were male. In contrast, 71.2% (1156 of 1624) of perpetrators of children aged 12 and above were male.[1]

The relationship of sex of perpetrator to sex of victim was also analyzed. **When all reports are considered, perpetrators of female victims are more often male while perpetrators of male victims are more often female.** The high percentages of male perpetrators and female victims in sexual abuse cases is, in large part, responsible for this pattern. This pattern is presented in Table 29.

[1] *These percentages and numbers based on assumption that each perpetrator listed on form abused and/or neglected each listed victim.*

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Table 29

Sex of Victim by Sex of Perpetrator for All Confirmed Reports:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 and State Fiscal Year 1984

Sex of Victim	State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984			State Fiscal Year 1984		
	N of Male Perps	N of Female Perps	% of Female Perps	N of Male Perps	N of Female Perps	% of Female Perps
Male	9627	10425	52.0	1717	1880	52.3
Female	12437	10463	45.7	2508	1872	42.7

NOTE: *Each perpetrator listed on form assumed to have abused and/or neglect each listed victim. Data missing for 2758 victims for FY 1977 - 1984 and for 457 victims in FY 1984.*

Among victims who sustain physical injuries, the just described pattern is reversed. Among physical injury victims of both sexes, perpetrators are more often male. Yet, the percentage of male perpetrators in physical injury reports is higher for male victims than for female victims. As Table 30 shows, 40.5% (530 of 1315) of the perpetrators listed in physical injury reports for boys were female. In contrast, 44.7% (568 of 1251) of the perpetrators listed in such reports for girls were female.

When males are listed as perpetrators in physical injury reports, boys are the more frequent victims. Thus, as shown on Table 30, 53.5% (785 of 1468) of the victims of male perpetrators were boys. When females are listed as perpetrators in physical injury reports, girls are the more frequent victims. 51.7% (568 of 1098) of the victims of female perpetrators were girls.

Table 30

Sex of Victim by Sex of Perpetrator for All Confirmed Physical Injury Reports:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 and State Fiscal Year 1984

Sex of Victim	State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984			State Fiscal Year 1984		
	N of Male Perps	N of Female Perps	% of Female Perps	N of Male Perps	N of Female Perps	% of Female Perps
Male	4658	3216	40.8	785	530	40.3
Female	4068	3503	46.3	683	568	44.7

NOTE: *Each perpetrator listed on form assumed to have abused and/or neglect each listed physical abuse victim; i.e., if two perpetrators listed and victim sustained both physical abuse and neglect, it is assumed that both perpetrators physically abused the victim. Data missing for 919 victims for FY 1977 - 1984 and for 107 victims in FY 1984.*

A still different pattern emerges when adolescent physical abuse is analyzed. Patterns of adolescent physical abuse resemble those of domestic violence; females are the predominant victims and males the predominant perpetrators. In particular, physical abuse of male adolescents by female perpetrators is, when compared with other possible combinations (i.e. male perpetrator, female victim), much less common. As indicated on Table 31, there were 57 such physical injury reports in FY 1984, only one of which was classified as a serious injury. When sexual abuse reports are analyzed, the higher percentage of male perpetrators stands out as presented in on Table 32.

Table 31

Sex of Victim by Sex of Perpetrator for Confirmed Adolescent (Ages 13-17) Physical Injury Reports: State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 and State Fiscal Year 1984

	State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984			State Fiscal Year 1984		
Sex of Victim	N of Male Perps	N of Female Perps	% of Female Perps	N of Male Perps	N of Female Perps	% of Female Perps
Male	1007	343	25.4	195	57	22.6
Female	1608	1031	39.1	278	169	37.8

NOTE: *Each perpetrator listed on form assumed to have physically abused each listed physical abuse victim; i.e., if two perpetrators listed and victim sustained both physical abuse and neglect, it is assumed that both perpetrators physically abused victim. Data missing for approximately 800 victims for FY 1977 - 1984 and for approximately 150 cases in FY 1984.*

Table 32

Sex of Victim by Sex of Perpetrator for Confirmed Sexual Abuse Cases: State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 and State Fiscal Year 1984

	State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984			State Fiscal Year 1984		
Sex of Victim	N of Male Perps	N of Female Perps	% of Female Perps	N of Male Perps	N of Female Perps	% of Female Perps
Male	924	209	18.4	227	44	16.2
Female	5029	407	7.5	1218	90	6.9

NOTE: *Each perpetrator listed on form assumed to have sexually abused each listed sexual abuse victim; i.e., if two perpetrators listed and victim sustained both sexual abuse and neglect, it is assumed that both perpetrators sexually abused victim. Data missing for 711 victims for FY 1977 - 1984 and for 209 victims in FY 1984.*

Ethnicity and Reporting

Reporting rates were studied in relationship to ethnicity of victim. As ethnicity data were most recently reported in the 1980 Census, 1980 Registry data was used in the analysis.

Several factors should be noted in interpreting the higher reporting rate for Hispanics, Native Americans and Black children. Some of the higher rate may be traced to effects of poverty and economics. Minority families, on average, experience greater economic stress which in turn may result in increased risk for abuse or neglect. Also, a higher proportion of minority families live in inner-city neighborhoods and the stresses of inner-city living may increase risks for abuse and neglect. Cultural stresses may also be a contributing factor.

Yet, it is important to see that much, perhaps all, of the higher rate may be due to reporting phenomena rather than to actual differences in levels of abuse or neglect. Higher levels of contact with public social agencies and health clinics increase the odds that a "suspicious" injury will be referred to protective services. Prejudice, perhaps operating subtly among both professionals and non-professionals may increase the odds that a referral will be made in a "questionable" situation. In sum, socio-economic factors in combination with reporting bias seem to explain much of the difference in rates. Table 33 presents reporting rates in different ethnic groups.

Table 33

Reporting Rates in Different Ethnic Groups:
State Fiscal Year 1980

Ethnic Group	Number of Victims	Population Aged 0 -17	Incidents in 1980 per 10,000 Children
White	3099	626,882	49
Hispanic	843	132,767	63
Black	406	34,092	119
Native American	74	6,547	113
Asian	43	8,525	50
Other	43	--	--
All Children	4775	808,813	59

NOTE: *Reporting rates are approximate; in particular, persons responding to Census questions and social workers filling out the reporting form undoubtably responded somewhat differently to the ethnicity questions. Source of population data: a specialized report developed by Colorado Division of Local Government based on 1980 Census data. Data on ethnicity missing for 268 cases. Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Includes only confirmed reports.*

Source of Referrals

Referrals to child protective services may come from either formal (professional) or informal (non-professional) sources; **overall about 26% of confirmed report referrals come from informal sources.** Tables 34 and 35 present the source of referral data. As compared with the FY 1977 - 1984 period, the percentage of medical referrals decreased slightly in FY 1984, while the percentage of police/court referrals increased slightly. Figure 3 depicts the percentages of FY 1984 referrals from different sources.

Table 34

Source of Referral to Protective Services:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 and State Fiscal Year 1984

Source of Referrals	State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984		State Fiscal Year 1984	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Medical	4139	14.6	653	12.4
School	6135	22.2	1218	23.1
Child care	895	3.2	135	2.6
Social agency	2108	7.4	390	7.4
Court/police	4425	15.6	874	16.6
Informal/self	7119	25.1	1396	26.1
Other than above	1096	3.9	205	3.9
All reports	28409	100.0	5268	100.0

NOTE: *2312 missing cases in FY 1977 - 1984. 397 missing cases in 1984. Missing cases included in "All reports" figures.) Figures reflect number of reports rather than number of victims listed on reports. Includes confirmed reports only.*

Figure 3
Source of Referrals From
Different Sources
FY 1984

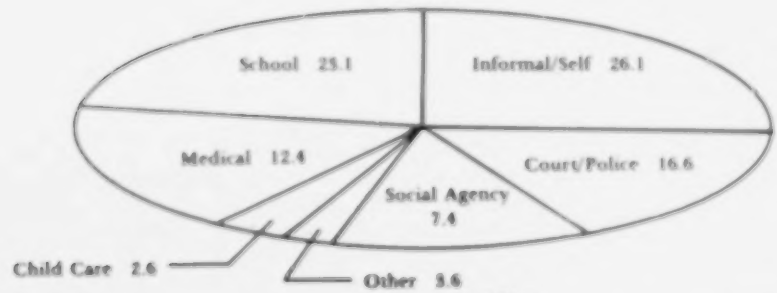

Table 35

Detailed Breakdown of Source of Referral:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 and State Fiscal Year 1984

Source of Report	State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984		State Fiscal Year 1984	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Private physician	736	2.8	111	2.3
Hospital/clinic physician	1749	6.7	269	5.5
Hospital/clinic personnel	1155	4.4	210	4.3
Nurse	470	1.8	59	1.2
School Nurse	1663	6.4	270	5.5
Teacher	791	3.0	145	3.0
Other school personnel	3861	14.8	803	16.5
Day care/sitter	895	3.4	135	2.8
Public social agency	1709	6.5	293	6.0
Private social agency	399	.5	97	2.0
Court	49	0.2	7	0.1
Law Enforcement	4376	16.8	867	17.8
Coroner/medical examiner	29	0.1	4	0.1
Victim	770	3.0	148	3.0
Relative	1168	4.5	248	5.1
Sibling	90	0.3	13	0.3
Parent/substitute	2395	9.2	467	9.6
Anonymous	713	2.7	159	3.0
Friend/neighbor	1983	7.6	361	6.9
Other	1096	4.2	205	4.2
All reports	28409	100.0	5268	100.0

NOTE: *2312 missing cases in FY 1977 - 1984. 397 missing cases in FY 1984. (Missing cases included in "All reports" figures.) Figures reflect number of reports rather than number of victims listed on reports. Includes confirmed reports only.*

Tables 36 and 37 highlight important relationships between source of referral and category of report. Specifically:

- serious injury referrals often originated at hospitals and health clinics;
- minor injury referrals often originated with schools;
- neglect referrals often originated with law enforcement agencies and with informal sources; and
- sexual abuse referrals often originated with informal sources.

Table 36

Source of Referral for Selected Report Categories:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984

Source of Referral	*Category of Report*							
	Serious injury		Minor injury		Neglect of basics		Sexual Abuse	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Medical	746	53	1521	12	1375	11	959	16
School	136	10	4696	38	1597	13	805	13
Child care	26	2	630	5	445	4	60	1
Social agency	64	5	809	7	1031	8	714	12
Court/police	188	13	1466	12	3384	27	1023	17
Informal/self	212	15	2837	23	4224	33	2218	36
Other than above	41	3	56	3	664	5	345	6

NOTE: *Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Data missing on source of referral in approximately 3010 cases. Includes only confirmed reports.*

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Table 37

Source of Referral for Selected Report Categories:
State Fiscal Year 1984

Source of Referral	Category of Report: Serious injury N	Serious injury %	Minor injury N	Minor injury %	Neglect of basics N	Neglect of basics %	Sexual Abuse N	Sexual Abuse %
Medical	107	53	177	9	202	9	239	16
School	15	8	834	42	328	14	228	15
Child care	5	3	89	4	66	3	14	1
Social agency	8	4	124	6	187	8	188	12
Court/police	31	15	255	13	700	29	218	14
Informal/self	30	15	443	22	817	34	531	35
Other than above	5	3	58	3	83	4	94	6

NOTE: *Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Data on source of referral missing in approximately 440 cases. Includes confirmed reports only.*

Characteristics of Parents

Data on selected parent characteristics were gathered and, wherever possible, compared with statistics describing the Colorado general population.

As Table 38 shows, 36.7% (1930 of 5268) of FY 1984 victims' families were one-parent families while 63.3% (3338 of 5268) were two-parent families. 1980 Colorado Census data (General Social and Economics Characteristics, Table 63) listed 402,726 families with their own children under the age of 18. Of these families, 58,360 families, or 14.5%, were headed by a female single-parent. Data on the percentage of male-headed single-parent families were not included in the Census totals. Yet, this percentage is quite small and does not significantly affect the comparison with victims' families. The percentage of single-parent victims' families is at least twice the corresponding statewide percentage.

Table 38

Family Structure of Victims Families:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 and State Fiscal Year 1984

Family Structure	State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 Number	State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 Percent	State Fiscal Year 1984 Number	State Fiscal Year 1984 Percent
One-parent Families				
Natural parent	9772	34.4	1837	34.9
Adoptive parent	69	0.2	9	0.2
Step-parent	84	0.3	14	0.3
Foster parent	42	0.1	7	0.1
Other/unknown	404	1.4	63	1.2
Two-parent Families				
Two natural	9776	34.4	1846	35.0
Natural and Adop.	511	1.8	85	1.6
Natural and step.	5298	18.6	1050	19.9
Two adoptive	287	1.0	37	0.7
Adop. and Step.	43	0.2	4	0.1
Two foster	128	0.5	25	0.5
Other unknown	1993	7.0	291	5.6
All Families	28409	100.0	5268	100.0

NOTE: *Figures reflect the number of reports rather than the number of victims listed on reports. Family structure data missing in 2 cases in FY 1977 - 1978. No cases missing in FY 1984. Includes only confirmed reports.*

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The median family income for victims families for FY 1984 was $9080. Median Colorado family income in 1980, taken from 1980 Colorado Census data, was $21,279. (General Social and Economic Characteristics, Table 71). **Thus, the median income of victims' families is less than one-half of the statewide median income.** Table 38 lists income levels.

Table 39

Income Level of Families of Confirmed Victims:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 and State Fiscal Year 1984

Income in Dollars	State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984		State Fiscal Year 1984	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 - 2,999	1764	10.8	187	7.1
3,000 - 4,999	2359	14.4	354	13.4
5,000 - 6,999	2039	12.4	330	12.5
7,000 - 8,999	1767	10.8	259	9.8
9,000 - 10,999	1437	8.8	229	8.7
11,000 - 12,999	1645	10.0	287	10.9
13,000 - 14,999	1737	10.6	275	10.4
16,000 - 17,999	1265	7.7	228	8.6
20,000 - 24,999	1074	6.6	223	8.5
25,000 - 29,999	569	3.5	120	4.5
30,000 - 39,999	452	2.8	85	3.2
40,000 and up	283	1.7	62	2.3
Total	16381	100.0	2639	100.0

NOTE: *Figures reflect the number of reports rather than the number of victims listed on reports. 12018 cases missing in FY 1977 - 1984. 2629 cases missing in FY 1984. The percentage of missing cases was extremely high.*

The reporting form allowed social workers to designate characteristics of victims' families. Insufficient income (or misuse of income) loss of control in discipline, lack of tolerance of child, and lack of knowledge of child development were the most frequently cited characteristics. Table 40 lists characteristics of victims' families while Table 41 lists the ages of parents.

Table 40

Selected Characteristics of Families:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 and State Fiscal Year 1984

Characteristics of Family/Parent	State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984		State Fiscal Year 1984	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
New baby in home	2530	9	400	8
Heavy child care responsibility	5890	21	980	19
Spouse abuse	3991	14	655	12
Insufficient income or misuse of income	7659	27	2188	31
Parent abused as child	4981	18	924	18
Recent relocation	4183	15	650	12
Inadequate housing	2888	10	506	10
Social isolation	3781	13	620	12
Loss of control in discipline	8367	30	1325	25
Lack of tolerance of child	9433	33	1495	28
Physical/chronic illness	792	3	118	2
Alcohol dependence	3318	12	637	12
Drug dependence	789	3	176	3
Mental retardation	492	2	91	2
Mental health problem	4415	16	651	12
Lack of knowledge of child development	7299	26	1271	24

NOTE: *Includes confirmed reports only.*

Table 41

Age of Parents/Substitutes for Confirmed Reports:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 and State Fiscal Year 1984

Age Group	State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984		State Fiscal Year 1984	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
13 to 17	642	2.0	90	1.3
18 to 25	8528	25.9	1662	24.1
26 to 39	19063	57.9	4188	60.8
40 to 59	4466	13.6	907	13.2
60 and up	200	0.6	45	0.7

NOTE: *Based on count of reports not count of victims; i.e. if multiple victims listed on report, each perpetrator counted only once. Missing data in 7495 cases for FY 1977 - 1984 and in 917 cases in FY 1984.*

Services Delivered to Families

Services provided to families and children were recorded on the follow-up form which is completed three months after the filing of the initial report. Services delivered in this three month period are listed in Table 42. Major findings are:

- About 70% of families receive counseling or therapy services;
- dependency and neglect actions are filed in approximately one-quarter of cases;
- criminal court action is taken in about one-fifth of all cases; and
- the percentage of cases involving both kinds of court action has increased across time.

Table 42

Social and Legal Services Provided to Families and Victims:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 and State Fiscal Year 1984

Services Provided	State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984		State Fiscal Year 1984	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
"Hard" Services	12059	42.4	1952	37.1
Foster Care Services	6925	24.4	1231	23.4
Counseling/therapy	19838	69.8	3811	72.3
Dependency filing	7344	25.9	1430	27.1
Criminal filing	4603	20.3	1126	21.4

NOTE: *Based on confirmed cases. Figures reflect the numbers of reports rather than the number of victims listed on reports. Hard services include homemaker services, day care services, financial assistance and employment assistance. Foster care includes family foster homes and other residential facilities.*

At the time of completion of the follow-up form, 76.1% of FY 1984 victims were living in their own homes. In general, the percentages of children living in different settings at the time of follow-up in FY 1984 was quite similar to the corresponding percentages for FY 1977 - 1984 period. Table 43 presents this comparison.

Table 43

Residence of Victims at Time of Follow-up Report:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984 and State Fiscal Year 1984

Follow-up Residence	State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984		State Fiscal Year 1984	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Own home	21705	76.4	4008	76.1
Relative	1782	6.3	323	6.1
Foster home	3079	10.8	591	11.
Residential facility	501	1.8	99	1.9
Other	791	2.8	150	2.8
All reports	28409	100.0	7094	100.0

NOTE: *The follow-up form asks for residence of only one child per family This poses a problem when there are multiple victims. This table lists residence of the specific child mentioned on form. 551 cases missing in FY 1977 - 1984 and 97 cases missing in 1984. (Missing cases included in "All reports" figures.) Confirmed reports only are included.*

Younger victims were more apt to be residing outside of their own homes at the time of the follow-up report. For instance, as Table 45 shows, 21.3% of FY 1984 victims who were under the age of one were in family foster care at the follow-up time as compared with 13.8% of victims aged one to two and 12.5% of victims aged 3 to 5. The use of residential facilities, usually residential treatment centers or group homes, is considerably higher for adolescent victims. A comparison of Tables 44 and 45 does not reveal important changes across time in the use of placement.

Table 44

Residence at Time of Follow-up for Victims in Different Age Groups:
State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984

Follow-up Residence	*Age Group of Victim*									
	Less than One		One or Two		Three to Five		Six to Twelve		Thirteen to Seventeen	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Own home	1708	64.8	3733	76.1	5673	81.7	12518	81.8	5569	71.9
Relative	217	8.2	362	7.4	409	5.9	859	5.6	579	7.5
Foster home	609	23.1	694	14.1	759	10.9	1470	9.6	788	10.2
Residential facility	10	0.4	8	0.2	21	0.3	226	1.5	351	4.5
Other	93	3.5	108	2.2	78	1.1	235	1.5	457	5.9

NOTE: *Data missing for 1103 cases. Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Residence at follow-up could be indicated on follow-up form for one child per family. In this table it is assumed that all victims from a multiple victim family were residing in the same setting as child indicated on form.*

Table 45

Residence at Time of Follow-up for Victims in Different Age Groups:
State Fiscal Year 1984

Follow-up Residence	*Age Group of Victim*									
	Less than One		One or Two		Three to Five		Six to Twelve		Thirteen to Seventeen	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Own home	276	65.2	706	76.1	1073	80.6	2285	81.7	1061	7.9
Relative	38	9.2	68	7.3	77	5.8	144	5.2	106	7.1
Foster home	90	21.3	128	13.8	167	12.5	296	10.6	159	10.6
Residential facility	1	0.2	3	0.3	1	0.1	33	1.2	81	5.4
Other	17	4.0	23	2.5	13	1.0	38	1.4	90	6.0

NOTE: *Data missing for 119 cases. Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Residence at follow-up could be indicated on follow-up form for one child per family. Hence, in this table it is assumed that all victims from a multiple victim family were residing in the same setting as child indicated on form.*

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The residence of victims at the time of follow-up report also varied with the category of report. In particular, children who sustained serious injuries were more likely to be residing in a setting other than their own home. In FY 1984, 51.9% of such victims were living at home at the follow-up time in comparison with 81.1% of minor injury victims, 74.7% of victims of neglect of basics victims and 75.2% of sexual abuse victims (see Table 47). Tables 46 and 47 show the residence of victim for selected types of maltreatment.

Table 46

Residence at Time of Follow-up Report for Selected Categories of Confirmed Reports: State Fiscal Years 1977 - 1984

Follow-up Residence	Serious injury		Minor injury		Neglect of basics		Sexual Abuse	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Own home	879	60.1	10528	81.2	9980	74.5	4979	76.1
Relative	139	9.5	719	5.5	996	7.4	405	6.2
Foster home	329	22.5	1188	9.2	1978	14.8	759	11.6
Residential facility	21	1.4	239	1.8	155	1.2	180	2.7
Other	94	6.4	297	2.3	293	2.1	224	3.4

NOTE: *Data missing in approximately 2400 cases. Figures reflect the number of victims listed on reports rather than the number of reports. Residence at follow-up could be indicated on follow-up form for one child per family. Hence, in this table it is assumed that all victims from a multiple victim family were residing in the same setting as child indicated on form.*

Table 47

Residence at Time of Follow-up Report for Selected Categories of Confirmed Reports: State Fiscal Year 1984

Follow-up Residence	Serious injury		Minor injury		Neglect of basics		Sexual Abuse	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Own home	110	51.9	1711	81.1	1887	74.7	1213	75.2
Relative	23	10.8	112	5.3	172	6.8	88	5.5
Foster home	51	24.1	201	9.5	385	15.2	199	12.3
Residential facility	5	2.4	35	1.7	31	1.2	58	3.6
Other	23	10.8	51	2.4	50	2.0	56	3.5

NOTE: *Data missing in approximately 229 cases. Based on count of victims not count of reports. Residence at follow-up could be indicated on follow-up form for one child per family. Hence, in this table it is assumed that all victims from a multiple victim family were residing in the same setting.*

V. COLORADO AND NATIONAL REPORTING

Child Abuse/Neglect Reporting Across Colorado

The relationship of selected socio-demographic county characteristics to FY 1984 reporting rates was analyzed. These characteristics were:

- -- child population as of July 1, 1983;
- -- per capita income as of July 1, 1983;
- -- unemployment rates as of July 1, 1983; and
- -- AFDC rate (children in AFDC program divided by child population) in July, 1983.

Data on child population, per capita income and unemployment rate were obtained from the Colorado Division of Local Government while the Department of Social Services provided the AFDC data. The Pearson correlation coefficients of these variables with reporting rates were:

- -- child population, r = .17;
- -- per capita income, r = .01;
- -- unemployment rate, r = .10; and
- -- AFDC rate, r = .34

Of the characteristics analyzed, only AFDC rate shows a moderately strong relationship to reporting rates. This suggests that general conditions of poverty, of which AFDC rate is a rough measure, are associated with high levels of reporting. Unemployment rate and per capita income, in this analysis, were not strongly related to reporting levels. The .17 correlation between number of children in county and reporting rate indicates that reporting rates, on average, are somewhat higher in larger counties. Yet, this relationship is quite weak; reporting rates in many small counties exceed those of much larger ones.

Multiple regression analysis with counties weighted by child population yielded results quite similar to the correlational study. After AFDC rate was entered into the regression equation, the other variables did not appreciably improve prediction of reporting rates. The regression equation with cases weighted proportionate to county size was:

Reporting rate = .0062 + .0374 (AFDC rate).

The multiple correlation for the weighted equation (also the simple Pearson correlation) of AFDC rate and reporting rate was .476. The substantive interpretation of the regression equation is that AFDC rate has modest utility for predicting reporting rates while the other variables improve prediction little, if at all.

For physical abuse cases, workers indicate the severity of injuries sustained by victims. In the smaller counties, a higher proportion of victims sustained injuries judged as moderate or severe as opposed to injuries requiring no treatment. This may suggest a reporting bias; larger counties may be more apt to report cases which do not require treatment. Table 48 presents the severity data.

Table 48

Severity of Confirmed Physical Abuse Report in Different Size Counties: State Fiscal Year 1984

Size of County	*FY 1984 Physical Abuse Reports* Number	Number Moderate or Serious	Percentage Moderate or Serious
Ten largest counties	2045	492	24.1
Middle-sized counties	208	59	28.4
Balance of counties	107	33	30.8
Statewide	2360	584	24.8

NOTE: *Balance of counties refers to the small rural counties.*

There was marked county-to-county variation in reporting rates. This variation is not easily explained. For instance, reporting rates in small counties which had chosen, on a voluntary basis to develop multi-disciplinary child protection teams to review abuse and neglect cases were, on average, no higher than those in small counties which had not developed such teams. The degree of community outreach and education as well as the consistency and quality of the protective services investigation undoubtably influences the willingness of professionals and non-professionals alike to report suspected abuse and neglect. Table 49 and Figure 4 present county-level reporting data.

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Table 49

Confirmed Child Abuse/Neglect Reports in Colorado Counties: State Fiscal Year 1984

County	Number of Confirmed Reports	Number of Confirmed Victims	Confirmed Victims per 10,000 Children
Adams	654	873	104
Alamosa	17	28	80
Arapahoe	572	709	72
Archuleta	5	6	43
Baca	2	3	20
Bent	7	11	63
Boulder	348	483	92
Chaffee	18	21	55
Cheyenne	2	2	30
Clear Creek	6	7	29
Conejos	5	6	22
Costilla	3	6	65
Crowley	1	1	12
Custer	0	0	0
Delta	65	104	160
Denver	923	1137	102
Dolores	2	3	51
Douglas	8	11	11
Eagle	10	18	47
Elbert	4	6	35
El Paso	613	761	76
Fremont	41	59	76
Garfield	56	88	98
Gilpin	2	2	26
Grand	4	5	19
Gunnison	12	14	23
Hinsdale	0	0	0
Huerfano	18	11	61
Jackson	0	0	0
Jefferson	578	775	66
Kiowa	0	0	0
Kit Carson	15	21	99
Lake	6	10	39
La Plata	62	98	120
Larimer	94	133	31
Las Animas	6	9	22
Lincoln	1	1	9
Logan	18	21	36
Mesa	141	192	68
Mineral	0	0	0
Moffat	61	109	212
Montezuma	20	28	49
Montrose	60	76	98
Morgan	62	84	123
Otero	98	167	263
Ouray	3	3	53
Park	1	1	5
Phillips	4	11	88
Pitkin	1	1	5
Prowers	20	28	66
Pueblo	226	375	109
Rio Blanco	10	13	53
Rio Grande	18	24	69
Routt	17	19	51
Saguache	10	22	201
San Juan	1	1	28
San Miguel	6	8	95
Sedgwick	2	3	35
Summit	10	13	52
Teller	9	12	45
Washington	5	11	78
Weld	300	415	108
Yuma	15	35	113
Statewide	**5268**	**7094**	**81**

NOTE: *Confirmed victims per 10,000 children based on data file as of April, 1985 (see NOTE in Table 7).*

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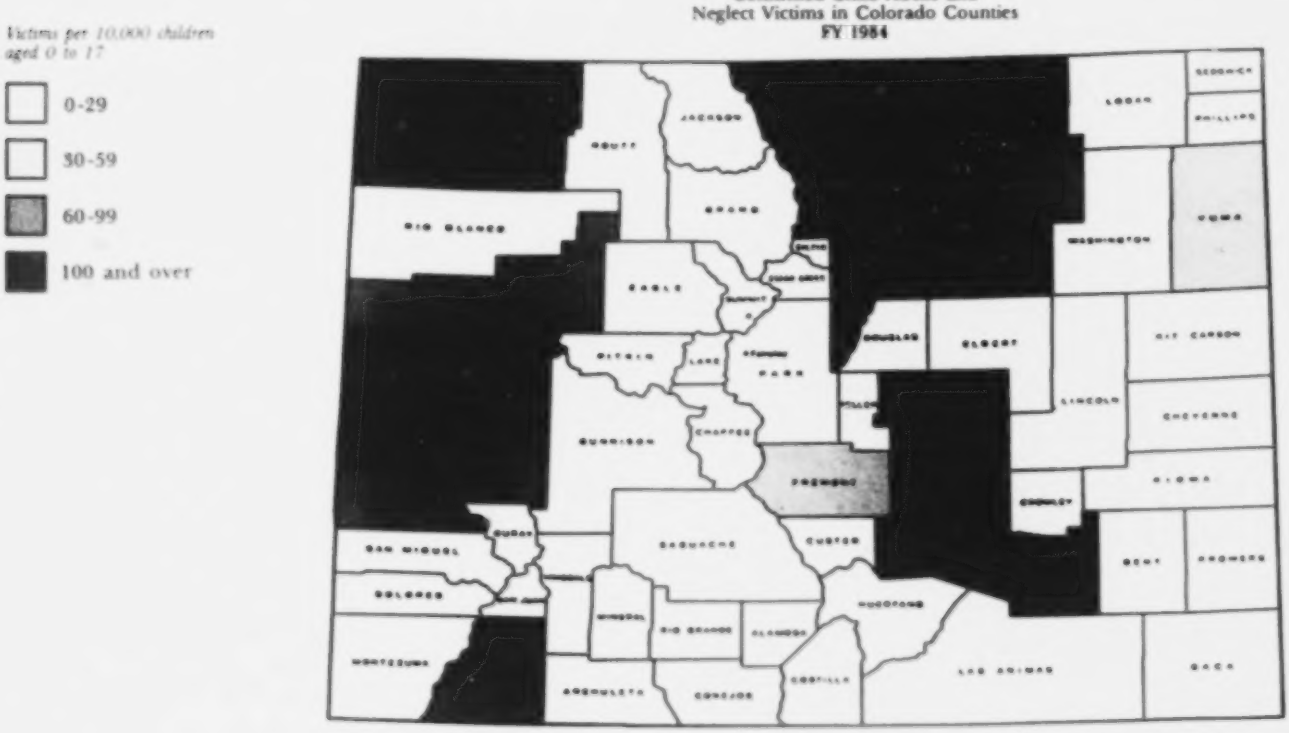
Figure 4
Confirmed Child Abuse and
Neglect Victims in Colorado Counties
FY 1984



Nationwide Comparisons

The American Humane Association (AHA) has analyzed nationwide reporting statistics since 1976. Colorado's pattern of reports differs in important ways from the nationwide pattern. The nationwide reporting rate in 1983 was 23.6 victims per 1,000 children (AHA, Highlights of Child Neglect and Abuse Reporting, 1983). This rate is difficult to interpret because some states tabulated statistics in terms of reports while others tabulated on the basis of victims listed on reports.

The rate applies to all reports, confirmed and unconfirmed. Colorado's 1983 reporting rate for all reports, was 10.7 reports per 1,000 children. The number of victims listed on Colorado's reports is available only for confirmed reports. The number of victims listed on all reports can be estimated by assuming that the ratio of reports to victims is the same as that for confirmed reports only. Using this logic, the reporting rate in Colorado is 14.6 victims per 10,000 children, still well below the nationwide rate.

In Colorado, as mentioned previously, only confirmed reports or reports with inconclusive findings at the time of initial investigation are sent to the registry. Cases which are established as unfounded at the time of investigation are not entered in the Registry file. Many states, in contrast, send reports of all investigations to their registries. Colorado's different process undoubtably is responsible, in part, for the lower rate.

In Colorado, a high percentage of reports are sexual abuse reports. Using the AHA's 1983 totals (AHA, National Summary Sheet for 1983), 17.8% of Colorado's reports were for sexual maltreatment. Among the 21 states where breakdowns on type of report were available, only Pennsylvania had a higher percentage of sexual abuse referrals. Bureau of the Census estimates for child

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population aged 0 - 14 (Estimates of the Population of States by Age, July 1, 1981 to 1983, Table 1) were used to estimate reporting rates for sexual abuse. Colorado sexual abuse reporting rate ranked fourth among the 21 states behind Florida, Nevada and Hawaii (rank order between these 3 states is difficult to establish).

The percentage of Colorado physical injury reports is substantially above the nationwide percentage. Using the AHA statistics, 31.6% of 1983 Colorado referrals as compared with 26.9% of nationwide referrals involved physical injury.

In contrast, the percentage of Colorado neglect reports is well below the nationwide percentage. Nationwide, 58.4% of 1983 reports were classified as deprivation of necessities by the AHA; in Colorado this percentage was 35.0%. Table 50 lists the percentage of referrals in the different report categories. These percentages, based on AHA tabulations, will differ slightly from the percentages used in the body of this report.

Table 50

Types of Maltreatment in Colorado and Nationwide, 1983

Type of Maltreatment	Percentage of 1983 Victims	
	Colorado	United States
Major physical injury	4.0	3.2
Other physical injury	27.6	23.7
Sexual maltreatment	17.8	8.5
Deprivation of necessities	35.0	58.4
Emotional maltreatment	12.0	10.0
Other	3.8	8.3

NOTE: *Source of data was AHA Nationwide Summary Sheet, National Minimal Data Set Report for 1983. AHA data based on 21 states. AHA percentages will differ slightly from percentages used in balance of this report.*

The source of referral for Colorado reports differs from the nationwide pattern. In particular, a higher percentage of Colorado's referrals come from medical, educational, and law enforcement agencies. That is, a higher percentage of referrals come from the disciplines which are allied with protective services in the identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect. As with the high rate of sexual abuse reporting, the high percentage of referrals from allied disciplines may reflect effective community outreach and education on the part of Colorado child protective agencies. Table 51 shows the percentage of 1983 referrals from different sources.

Table 51

Referral Sources, Colorado and Nationwide, 1983

Referral Source	Percentage of Referrals	
	Colorado	United States
Medical	14.7	11.2
School	25.5	12.6
Law enforcement	16.8	11.3
Social services	6.1	11.1
Child care provider	3.2	1.9
Non-professional	27.3	39.2
Other source	4.5	12.7

NOTE: *Source of data AHA, Nationwide Summary Sheet, National Minimal Data Set Report. AHA data based on 21 states. AHA percentages will differ slightly from percentages used in balance of this report.*

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COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES - TITLE XX DIVISION

STATE REGISTRY OF CHILD PROTECTION
CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT REPORT

PLEASE USE HARD BALL POINT PEN OR TYPEWRITER!

Date Report Received _____ Date Report Completed _____

Parent(s)/Substitute(s)	ROLE	AGE	SEX	ETHNICITY
1.				
2.				

(LAST NAME) (FIRST) (MAIDEN)

Ethnicity Code
A — Asian
B — Black
C — Caucasian
D — Spanish surname
E — Native American
F — Other (Specify) _____

Children	Relationship 1.	Relationship 2.	ROLE	BIRTH DATE	SEX	ETHNICITY
A.						
B.						
C.						
D.						
E.						
F.						
Other Persons in Household						
G.						
H.						
Other (Alleged perpetrator(s) if different from Parent(s)/Substitute(s) or Persons in Household						
I.						
J.						

Role Code

V — Victim
P — Alleged Perpetrator
N — Not Involved
A — Alleged Passive Participant

Relationship Code

A — Natural Child
B — Adopted Child
C — Stepchild
D — Foster Child
E — Grandparent
F — Sibling
G — Baby Sitter/ Child Care
H — Other Relative
J — Institution Staff
K — Teacher
L — Unknown
M — Other

Marital Status of Parent(s)/Substitutes (Circle one letter)

A — Legal Marriage
B — Consensual Union
C — Never Married
D — Divorced/Separated
E — Widow/Widower
F — Marriage partner Temporarily Absent
G — Marriage Partner Permanently Absent
H — Unknown

a) _____ (ADDRESS OF FAMILY) _____ (CITY) _____ (COUNTY) _____ (PHONE NUMBER)

b) _____ (ADDRESS OF PERPETRATOR (IF DIFFERENT)) _____ (CITY) _____ (COUNTY) _____ (PHONE NUMBER)

c) _____ (PERSON COMPLETING FORM) _____ (OCCUPATION OR AGENCY) _____ (ADDRESS) _____ (PHONE NUMBER)

Nature of Complaint _____

Source of Initial Report (Circle one letter)

A — Private Physician
B — Hospital/Clinic Physician
C — Hospital/Clinic Personnel
D — Nurse
E — School Nurse
F — Teacher
G — Other School Personnel
H — Headstart, Day Care Babysitter, etc.
I — Public Social Agency
J — Private Social Agency
K — Court
L — Law Enforcement
M — Coroner/Medical Examiner
N — Victim
O — Relative
P — Sibling
R — Parent/Substitute
S — Anonoymous
T — Friend/Neighbor
U — Other (Specify) _____

Involved Children (Circle applicable letters for each involved child)

A	B	C	D	E	F	Brain Damage/Skull Fracture	A	B	C	D	E	F	Burns, Scalds
A	B	C	D	E	F	Subdural Hemorrhage	A	B	C	D	E	F	Cuts, Bruises, Welts
A	B	C	D	E	F	Bone Fracture (other than skull)	A	B	C	D	E	F	Sexual Abuse (specify) _____
A	B	C	D	E	F	Dislocation/Sprains/Twisting/ Shaking	A	B	C	D	E	F	Congenital Drug Addiction
A	B	C	D	E	F	Internal Injuries	A	B	C	D	E	F	Physical Neglect
A	B	C	D	E	F	Malnutrition	A	B	C	D	E	F	Emotional Neglect
A	B	C	D	E	F	Failure to Thrive	A	B	C	D	E	F	Medical Neglect
A	B	C	D	E	F	Exposure to Elements	A	B	C	D	E	F	Educational Neglect
A	B	C	D	E	F	Locking In/Out	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abandonment
A	B	C	D	E	F	Poisoning (Unintentional)	A	B	C	D	E	F	Lack of Supervision
							A	B	C	D	E	F	Other (Specify) _____

REVERSE CARBON BEFORE COMPLETING THIS SIDE

Severity of Abuse/Neglect (Circle one letter for each child)

A B C D E F No Treatment
A B C D E F Moderate
A B C D E F Serious/Hospitalized
A B C D E F Permanent Disability
A B C D E F Fatal
A B C D E F Potential Abuse/Neglect

Special Characteristics of Involved Children (Circle all applicable letters)

A B C D E F Premature Birth
A B C D E F Diagnosed Mentally Retarded
A B C D E F Congenital Physical Handicap
A B C D E F Physically Handicapped
A B C D E F Chronic illness (e.g., asthma, diabetes, muscular dystrophy, epilepsy, etc.)
A B C D E F Emotionally Disturbed
A B C D E F None

Education (Circle one letter for each parent/substitute)

Mother/Substitute	Father/Substitute	
A	A	Grades 0-3
B	B	Grades 4-8
C	C	Some High School
D	D	High School Graduate
E	E	Some College/Vocational Training
F	F	College Graduate
G	G	Post-College

Occupation (Circle one letter for each parent/substitute)

Mother/Substitute	Father Substitute	
A	A	Unemployed
B	B	Unskilled Labor
C	C	Skilled Labor
D	D	Business Professional
E	E	Agriculture
F	F	Technical
G	G	Other (Specify) _____

Estimated Yearly Income (Circle one letter)

A — $0 - $ 2,999
B — 3,000 - 4,999
C — 5,000 - 6,999
D — 7,000 - 8,999
E — 9,000 - 10,999
F — 11,000 - 12,999
G — $13,000 - $15,999
H — 16,000 - 19,999
I — 20,000 - 24,999
J — 25,000 - 29,999
K — 30,000 - 39,999
L — 40,000 Plus

Source of Income Supplement (Circle one letter)

A — None
B — AFDC
C — Other Public Assistance
D — Retirement/Social Security/ Pensions

Factors Present (Check all applicable letters)

Family

A — Broken Family
B — Family Discord
C — Insufficient Income/ Misuse of Adequate Income
D — New Baby in Home/ Pregnancy
E — Heavy continuous Child Care Responsibility
F — Physical Abuse of Spouse/Fighting
G — Parental History of Abuse as Child
H — Recent Relocation
I — Inadequate Housing
J — Social Isolation
K — Loss of Control during Discipline

Parental Capacity

L — Lack of Tolerance to Child's Disobedience and Provocation
M — Incapacity due to Physical/ Chronic Illness
N — Alcohol Dependence
O — Drug Dependence
P — Mental Retardation
Q — Mental Health Problem
R — Lack of Knowledge of Child Development
S — Normal Authoritarian Method of Discipline

Disposition of Involved Children at Completion of Form (Circle all applicable letters)

A B C D E F Child at Home
A B C D E F Disposition Pending
A B C D E F Voluntary Placement
A B C D E F Court Order Placement
A B C D E F Consent to Adoption
A B C D E F Termination of Parental Rights

Treatment Services Provided at Completion of This Form

A — Family Counseling
B — Group Counseling
C — Individual Counseling
D — Lay Therapy
E — Marital Counseling
F — Play Therapy

Special Services Provided at Completion of This Form

A — Homemaker Services
B — Day Care Services
C — Foster Care
D — Shelter Care
E — Health Services (including Mental)
F — Financial Assistance
G — Employment Assistance

Actions Taken at Completion of This Form

A — Juvenile Court Petition Filed
B — Criminal Action Taken
D — No Action Taken; Awaiting Further Investigation
E — Other Protective Services (specify) _____

OTHER COMMENTS

COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENTS MUST MAKE COPIES OF THIS REPORT AND TRANSMIT TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND TO THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.